

IV. Remarks

Applicant would first like to emphasize appreciation for the Examiner's review of the claim set as originally filed and the Examiner's various statements and suggestions regarding same. Applicant provides the response herein to the Office Action of February 20, 2008 and notes that, prior to issuance of the next office action regarding this matter, Applicant would appreciate an opportunity for an interview if deemed helpful to advance prosecution of this application.

A. Regarding the Specification

Applicant has clarified and amended, as necessary, the title as noted in the "Amendments to the Specification" section above and herein for clarification purposes and not for purposes of patentability.

B. Regarding the Claims

It should be noted that certain clarifying amendments have been made to various claims, however, these amendments have been made solely for the purpose of clarifying the claims and not for purposes of patentability.

1. Rejection of Claims under Section 112

As noted above, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's review and suggestions regarding the claim set as originally filed. Applicant generally has adopted the Examiner's suggestions and provided correction as noted herein. The Office Action included rejections to claims 19-30, 32-34, 129-131 and 133-142, and as noted, Applicant has amended the claims as provided in the "Amendments to the Claims." In addition, for clarification purposes only, Applicant has withdrawn the non-elected claims asserted in the Office Action and cancelled claims 22 and 23 both of which indicated the incorrect pendency and which may be reinstated later.

Applicant emphasizes that all of these amendments and changes are made solely for clarification purposes and not for patentability reasons.

In view of the amendments herein to the claims as noted above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

2. Rejection of Claims under Section 102

5 The Office Action indicated certain references under Section 102 as regards Applicant's claims. The references include the Stylli and Ganz patents under Section 102(b) and the Marquiss patent under Section 102(e).

Applicant again thanks the Examiner for the review of the claim set as originally filed and the Examiner's helpful suggestions regarding same. However, as Applicant has
10 now amended the claims such that they are more clear with regard to dependency--with all amendments being made only for purposes of clarification--Applicant respectfully traverses and requests further clarification by Examiner regarding the rejections. That is, Applicant is not able to clearly correlate the rejections with various elements in Applicant's claims.

15 Applicant acknowledges that the originally filed claim set was unclear with respect to various claim dependency issues. However, Applicant would greatly appreciate the Examiner providing further clarification regarding the claim rejections; with this, Applicant could more effectively respond to the rejections if correlated with each feature of the claims. For example, the Office Action seems to broadly describe the Stylli, Ganz
20 and Marquiss references, but there does not seem to be a direct, clear correlation with certain features of the claims. Also, no mention is made of claim 3 for example. Regarding the Office Action general description, for example, of Stylli with respect to Applicant's claims 1, 2 4-23, 25-24, 128-135 and 140-142, Applicant respectfully requests further clarification and correlation with respect to Applicant's features such as
25 an actuator, sample guide, means for processing and various others so that Applicant can better understand the rejection. Regarding the general description of Ganz with respect to claims 1, 2, 4, 10-21, 30-34 and 128-133, Applicant again respectfully requests further clarification and correlation with respect to Applicant's features as noted above as well as

means for receiving and others. Regarding the general description of Marquiss with respect to claims 1, 2 4-23, 25-24, 128-137 and 140-142, Applicant also respectfully requests clarification and correlation with respect to Applicant's features as noted above and as well as guides, means for holding and others.

5 In light of the foregoing, Applicant is not providing remarks herein on any particular feature of any of the claims for the purpose of establishing patentability, but is requesting further clarification regarding the Office Action rejections; that is, Applicant is unclear how the references anticipate each and every feature of Applicant's independent claims 1, 18, 128, and 132 as well as the respective claims dependent thereon.

10 In addition, please note that Applicant reserves the right to further prosecute various original claims and others in this or another application and to modify any remarks or the like herein; additionally, Applicant further reserves the right to withdraw any remark regarding any claims or otherwise. It should also be noted that the certain remarks as indicated herein are made only with respect to that particular claim herein of
15 the above-referenced instant application and Applicant and reserves the right to provide any further clarification or correction regarding the remarks or other claims. The remarks herein are made without prejudice with respect to the original claims or other claims which may be pursued in this or another application and are not made and do not apply with regard to any other features, aspects, or otherwise of the above-referenced
20 application or any other claim.

Please note that Applicant would welcome any further communications regarding Examiner's Office Action or Applicant's Remarks or response if it would be helpful to further prosecution of the application.

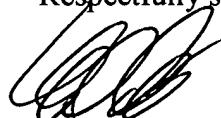
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Respectfully submitted,



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